

**Washington, D.C.** - With water levels continuing to rise along the Chain O' Lakes and Fox River, Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) joined colleagues in a bipartisan letter urging that Lake County and other Illinois counties be declared federal disaster areas.

"By all reports, this is the most severe flooding the Midwest has seen in over a decade," Bean said. "Potential damage to homes and businesses in parts of our district remains severe. I'm working with municipal leaders to make sure they have the volunteers and resources necessary, and I urge the community to support those families who are struggling to protect their homes."

Bean joins other members of the Illinois delegation in a letter led by Senator Dick Durbin requesting FEMA support. The letter to the Administration supports the state's declaration of Lake County as an area needing expedited assistance due to severe flooding.

"Unfortunately, the predicted impact of flood waters is greater than the capacity of state or local governments to prepare for a disaster of this size," says the letter to the Administration. "We appreciate FEMA's assistance to date and respectfully request that you make the necessary declaration so that residents of affected areas can continue to receive federal disaster assistance."

Bean's office has been coordinating with local, state, and federal emergency management officials to ensure that officials in the 8th District have sufficient resources and manpower to deal with the situation.

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